

REPORT

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT**

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS 25X1

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The headquarters in Moscow for all prisoner slave labor camps is named GULAG. This is a section of the MVD which runs all prison camps.

Pechora camp is under the GUZhDS, which is the GULAG section in charge of railroad camps. The commander of GUZhDS was Gen Frenkel. There is also a section that takes care of mine work, and a section for farm camps. They are all connected with MVD. For instance, the name of [] camp was Pechora Prison MVD. This camp stretches out over 486 km from the southwestern to the northeastern end of the Pechora railroad, from Kozhva to Vorkuta. [Map of Area is enclosed with this report.] The camp is sub-divided into units, somewhat like regiments. The camp commandant is in the central region. He wears an MVD uniform. His title is Special Major, MVD. He has three or four assistant commandants, all officers of the MVD. Every assistant commandant has a few different sections — food section, an engineer section, dairy farm section, transport section, finance section, food section — in all. 10 or 12 sections. Every camp also has an MVD guard section. [] the commandant of the Pechora was a Col Barrowitski. The one before him was Uspenski.

Maj Gen Frenkel is the head of the GUZhDS, which controls all railroad camps. Maj Part was head of the transport section at Pechora. Maj Falkenstein was head of four or five sections. Maj Artamonoff was head of the personnel section.

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- 2 -

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the camp commander and his assistant commandants are usually members of the Communist Party. But this is not always so. The assistant commandant, for instance, was a former convict, and therefore not able to join the party.

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5.

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in 1945 and 1946 some ex-prisoners were used as guards. However, they were not supplied with firearms, just sticks. These were only criminal prisoners, of course. Usually the camp commander is a free man, but in 1943 many commanders were former prisoners. The camp had a commandant who came from Finland, who had been sentenced for such things as speculation and hooliganism. Under this commandant there are different sections, such as bookkeeper, an economist, and a man who directs the prisoners, more or less as a foreman. Then there is an assistant commandant for the food, kitchen and baking, a nurse, and a medical post. Of course, there is the guard section with a number of guards equal to 10% of the number of prisoners.

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6.

There is a commissar in the camp, and everybody is under control of the commissar. This political commissar checks up on all the officers in the camp, just like the political commissars in the army. He holds political conferences. He controls the work of the camp. Everybody, from the commandant on down, is under the control of the commissar. The commissar, so to speak, constitutes a little Politburo. If the commandant does something which is not in keeping with the party line, the "secretary" writes back to Moscow, and the commandant is called back. The commissar is a representative of the Politburo in Moscow.

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9.

As commandant of the camp, the commandant was the highest person, but as a party member he was under the control of the commissar. Usually the relation was all right since both were Communists. However, if the commissar did not like the commandant he only had to write a letter back to Moscow and the commandant would be recalled. So, in the last analysis, the party secretary always has the final say.

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- 3 -

15.

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17.

living conditions for camp officials

They have everything special for them. They had very nice homes and good food.

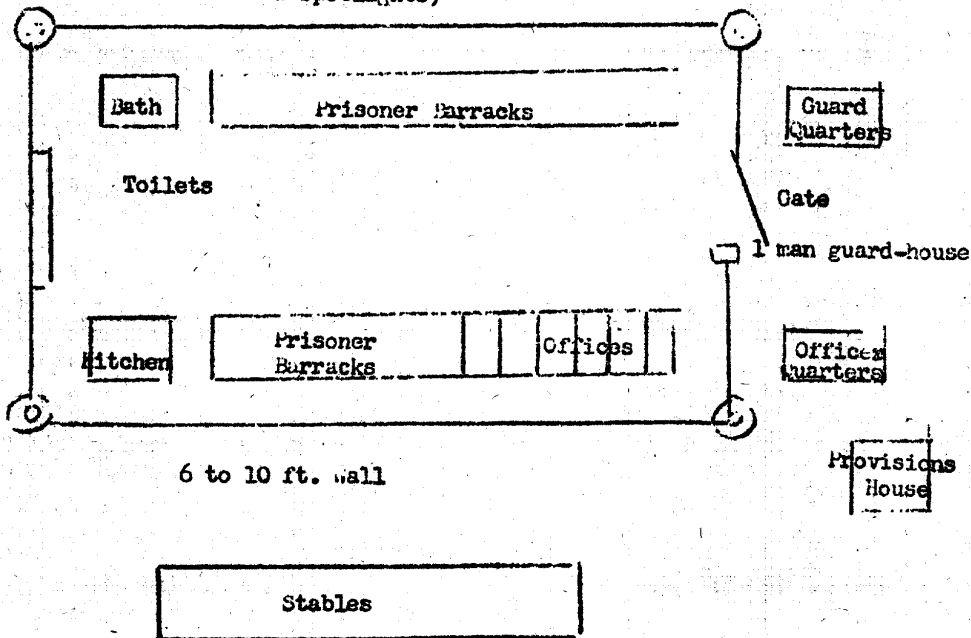
18.

Everyone in Russia liked uniforms very much.

19.

The enclosures hold 250 men and are all built this way:

Guard tower (6 guards
& spotlights)



20.

the organization of the camps

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Camps are divided into many units. [redacted] camp had five units: one in Pechora, the second in Kas-Yu, the third in Kochmes, the fourth in Sivaya Laska, and the fifth in Khanovey. A unit had eight to 15 thousand laborers. Every unit has the same sections as the main camp, depending on how many jobs there are. Mostly the heads of these

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- 4 -

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sections are ex-convicts, who 10 years ago were free and did not want to go back to the big cities. The units are divided into sub-camps of 200 to 300 laborers, each with a territory of about 100 km along the railroad. About 1940, the political and the criminal prisoners were separated, and the foreign prisoners were separated from the Russian prisoners, but later all were put together again. In 1947, about 70% were political prisoners. Many came from Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland when the war ended.

21.

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In 1942 a mobilization was started. Only criminal prisoners could go to the army, except bandits, and prisoners who had been convicted of stealing from the Government under a paragraph enacted in 1932. Of course, everybody wanted to go.

22.

the average age of the political prisoners

between 40 and 65. There were some women, mostly young, from Lithuania and Latvia.

23.

camps as the men?

there were special female camps. In a female camp there are about 200 women and about 25 to 30 men. And then, of course, there are three or four women in every men's camp to work at the baths and in the kitchen. Most of the women work at the dairy farm.

24.

The youngest was 14. They got easy jobs in the kitchen or something like that. The young prisoners are usually criminal prisoners. The youngest political prisoner was a woman of 16 from Latvia.

25.

Usually the death sentence was changed to 10 years at hard labor.

26.

about political prisoners.

there were more from the Ukraine, White Russia, Byelorussia and the Baltic states, and from the occupation zones for collaborating with the Germans. Russian prisoners who had been captured in the Finnish War. When they were liberated by their own troops, they were sentenced to five years at hard labor for having been taken prisoner.

25X1

27.

most of the political prisoners above average intelligence

many were professors, teachers, engineers, or physicians, and most of them were convicted of speaking against the Soviet Government -- paragraph 58/10 -- or of Paragraph 58/7 -- economic counter-revolution -- which usually meant that they were big directors and had made some mistake in their factory control.

28.

statements they arrest them for

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an old servant from Kursk, what he was arrested for. He said, "Nothing at all. I didn't think these community farms were such a good idea. That's all. The next thing I was convicted and sentenced to 10 years at hard labor."

29.

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- 5 -

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many of the prisoners who were called to the army in 1942 escaped to the countryside, but most of them were later arrested. And there was the Ukrainian resistance movement — but I know very little about these matters.

30.

31.

32.

33.

25X1

in no country in the world are there so many anti-Communists as in Russia.

34.

the total number of prisoners in Russia

were between 25 and 35 million.

35.

prisoners

in the Pechora area

In 1941, there were about 200 thousand. In 1943, 115 thousand were left because one part went to the army. Another part went to the South; that is, they were evacuated because they were shipbuilding people.

25X1

36.

percentage died these years

In 1941, through 1944, about 50 thousand people out of 200 thousand. Most of them died of scurvy and pellagra.

37.

Every prisoner was examined by a physician when he died, to see what the cause of death was. This is standard practice for every prisoner and every animal that dies.

38.

prisoners escape

Many tried, but most of them were shot by guards. Especially in 1942,

25X1

It is practically impossible to get away. Without food and clothing, there is nothing one can do. Furthermore, in the tundra you can move only along the railroad and this is guarded very heavily.

39.

They used police dogs. Every camp had a police dog. Every group of 20 men was guarded by two soldiers and a police dog.

40.

Dogs attacked the prisoners but never killed them. They were very well trained.

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- 6 -

41. [redacted] food for prisoners [redacted] 25X1
 For prisoners who worked at difficult work there was 700/grams/ of bread, 25 grams of oatmeal, two grams of sugar, and 100 grams of fish -- mostly salt fish. If somebody worked more than 100% of his quota he got more food. The guards got the prisoners up at five o'clock in the morning. Breakfast consisted of bread, soup, and salt fish, in quantities according to the kind of work you did. Most prisoners had to cut about four cubic meters of wood; this constituted their quota. If they did more, for instance 125%, the economist computed the percentage and the next day more food was issued in accordance with his percentage. The prisoners used to work in groups of 25 to 30 under a foreman. This foreman showed how the work should be done; he did not work himself, but only supervised. The regular ration of food changed every year. Before the war it was a little better, then it became worse and towards the end of the war it became better again. The worker who made 100% of his quota received per day 700 grams of bread, 125 grams of corn or oats, 120 grams of fish, 2 grams of oil, 2 grams of sugar, and 600 grams of vegetables, usually turnips. In the morning one got all the bread, a liter of soup from the corn, and 100 grams of fish. In the evening you got soup and vegetables. 25X1
42. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] People don't eat lunch. In the summer when the days are so long [redacted] sometimes did get lunch. Usually it was soup made of cabbage or turnips. 25X1
43. [redacted] 25X1
 In 1941, when this camp began, they had 120 cows. In the winter we had very little milk, and in the summer the milk would often turn sour because of bad transportation. The milk went to the railroad for civilian workers -- for children, mostly. In Russia if you don't work you don't eat. 25X1
44. [redacted] 25X1
 In the winter we worked eight hours. In the summer we worked 12 hours.
45. [redacted] 25X1
 Usually about half made their quota or went over. This also depended on the kind of work they had to do. On the railroad in the winter it was very hard to make 100% because the ground was frozen. Good commandants usually tried to have their workers in good physical condition so that they could fulfill their quota and the commandant could make a good showing.
46. [redacted] 25X1
 The guards never touched the workers. If you did not want to work, the foreman told the head of the guard unit when you came back to the camp at night and you were taken to the isolation cell. This is a small place made of wood, with no heat. The food was two one-liter bowls of soup and some black bread. All your clothes, except underclothes, were taken away.
47. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] The camp commandant would come by every day and ask whether you had changed your mind. Usually the longest time in isolation was 10 days. After that you were taken out, interrogated by an MVD officer, and usually sentenced under Paragraph 58-40 to another three years at hard labor for sabotage. It was possible to receive another sentence while still serving the first one, [redacted] 25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 7 -

25X1

48.

25X1

49.

25X1

it was forbidden to touch the prisoners. However, this prohibition is not always enforced and sometimes the foreman, who is usually a criminal prisoner, beats his wards if they don't want to go to work.

25X1

25X1

50.

51.

52.

53.

54.

55.

56.

57.

Everybody blames Stalin, and most of them hope that he will die.

58.

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59.

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- 8 -

25X1

60. [] the most popular men in Russia [] 25X1

Nobody in the Communist Party, but the field marshals were very popular. 25X1
 Zhdanov is now commander in Odessa and Rokossovsky is in Caucasus.
 These marshals were popular because the Russians are a military people.

61. []

62. []

25X1

63. []

[] the army sympathizes with the 25X1
 prisoners. Some people from 160th Construction Company working on the
 railroad in the Murmansk region came to [] camp and told [] that the 25X1
 soldiers used to throw food packages and cigarettes to them. That was,
 of course, because practically every family has a member in a prison 25X1
 camp somewhere, and the soldiers never knew but that their father, or
 mother, or brother, or sister, were among the group. You see, in Russia
 there are three kinds of people: those who are in prisoner camps, those
 who have been in prisoner camps, and those who are going to be in prisoner
 camps.

64. []

25X1

25X1

65. [] Communist Party members [] sent to prison camps [] 25X1

Many of them came to [] camp, and many of them went to camps scattered 25X1
 over the USSR. However, there are some camps which are especially for
 the very long term ex-party members.

66. []

army officers convicted []

25X1

Many of them were convicted of anti-Soviet propaganda, criticizing any
 aspect of Russia, and many of them were convicted of discipline viola-
 tions. These discipline violations consisted of overstaying leave time
 by one or two days, which brought on a sentence of 10 years of hard 25X1
 labor. All these military convictions were under Paragraph 193; thus,
 by looking at the files, one can always recognize former army personnel
 because they are convicted under Paragraph 193.

67. []

25X1

In the winter we worked from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. When we came home we
 cooked supper and went into the barracks.

68. []

25X1

[] All groups went into the barracks. Each barrack contains 25X1
 from four to five groups; that is, from 100 to 125 people. There were
 no mattresses or comforts of that kind in the barracks.

69. []

25X1

[] there was a cultural director in every camp who saw to it that 25X1
 newspapers arrived, and had to go into the barracks and read the paper
 to the prisoners. He also had to take care of the letters which the
 prisoners wrote home.

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- 9 -

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70.

All prisoners are sent to a collection camp when they arrive in Pechora and screened. If the demand for a certain specialist exists he is sent to Abes and from there assigned to the unit that needs him.

71.

25X1

There are more among the Russians. It is much harder to obtain specialist ratings if you are a foreigner than if you are a Russian.

72.

25X1

It was a matter of your previous experience, not a matter of political affiliations or sympathies. These were hardly ever mentioned, since everyone knew that it made no difference what one said while one was in the camp. The commanders were very much aware that anyone would profess to be a Communist if he thought for a moment that it would help him get out of the camp. This was especially true in the Pechora camp, where there were about 50% political prisoners, of whom 95% used to be professional workers, and where the other 50% consisted of people from collective farms, who had stolen or robbed. Politics were hardly ever mentioned, and specialists got their jobs because of their qualifications. "educated people" those who could read a newspaper intelligently, and who could talk about politics sensibly. These political prisoners, of course, had nothing good to expect from the commandant or the KVD. They kept very quiet and never tried to talk themselves into jobs by professing a change of heart.

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25X1

73.

25X1

74.

most of the prisoners hope that Germany would win the war

25X1

Ninety-five percent. You see, if you lose 10 years of your life, your only hope is to get out. only hope of getting out was when and if the Germans won the war.

25X1

75.

most of the prisoners want another war

25X1

Everybody hopes for one.

25X1

76.

If America would undertake to arm and organize the prisoners in the northern regions it would be rather easy to form an army from among them.

25X1

77.

With a bottle of vodka and a loaf of bread, they could all be made to fight and would go to the end of the world.

25X1

78.

25X1

In 1942 two camps with about 500 prisoners overpowered their guards, killed their commandant, and escaped. But where could they go? They had no food, no clothing, no fuel. After some time a brigade of guards caught them and killed them all.

79.

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the guards sometimes begin to like the prisoners, but every morning they receive a "pep talk"

25X1

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- 10 -

25X1

During the war many of the guards were older people who felt very sorry for the prisoners and were kind to them. The Mongols, and generally the younger guards, are not so kind. The Mongols and the Caucasians are the worst guards. There were many Mongols and not so many Caucasians.

80.

81.

25X1

The youths get fine Communist instruction but are not very enthusiastic about it because they do not have enough to eat. Here is an example of the standard of living of a free man who was working in the northern region near our camp. He was a former professor who had been sentenced for three years and had decided to stay on in the camp as a free man after his sentence had been finished. He was an ex-Communist and knew that if he returned to the region where he used to live he would be picked up again on the slightest provocation and given another prison term. This man earned one thousand rubles per month, but because of the government savings bonds which he was obliged to buy, he actually received 650. He had to spend at least 20% of his pay on war bonds. Every month he had to spend 75 rubles for 21 kg of bread, 12 rubles for 1.5 kg of rice, about 120 rubles for 1.8 kg of butter, 31 rubles for two kg of sugar, 250 rubles for seven kg of meat, 36 rubles for 18 kg of vegetables, and 27 rubles for 15 liters of milk. That leaves him about 200 rubles for clothes, room, and amusement -- and he is still hungry.

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82.

People do not worry about their freedom, their living standard is all that counts.

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83.

84.

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88.

89.

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- 11 -

25X1

it is also the veterans, who are very dissatisfied with the treatment they are getting upon becoming civilians. They cannot find jobs, and those that come back disfigured receive no help or compensation from the Government.

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90.

25X1

91.

92.

the chief reason for the large number of prisoners

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25X1

The Government needs a cheap labor supply. It very often happens that within a certain region the MVD chief is ordered to supply a certain number of prisoners for a certain project. He then goes out and makes the arrests. For instance, when the great constructions were going on along the Amur and near Lake Baikal, people used to be taken out of their homes at night and transported to prison camps without further ado after being sentenced for some fictitious reason. The Caucasians were usually sent to the Far East and to special camps in the Far North.

93.

Pw's from Germany

25X1

in 1944

two companies of German railroad workers and one company of truck drivers but they did not last very long because the climate was too severe. The truck drivers were used to drive wood from the forest to the railroad. This process was continued even after the railroad was finished because the road-bed keeps sinking into the tundra. This constant reinforcement of the railroad was accomplished without interference with the traffic. Most of the reconstruction was done in the summer.

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25X1

25X1

94.

95.

25X1

all the people in those shops were old people and prisoners. The prisoners had to do all the manual labor, while the free people were usually in administrative jobs.

25X1

96.

25X1

Japan was not popular among the prisoners because the Mongols, who were the worst guards, came from the Far East and looked like Japanese.

97.

25X1

America was by far the most popular of all. But people don't talk much about those matters. When one Russian meets another it is usually "What did you have to eat today? How much bread did you get yesterday? What are you going to eat tomorrow? Where can I get an extra package of cigarettes?" etc.

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- 12 -

25X1

98.

25X1

Vorkuta. It is built of wooden buildings. The population consists of many ex-convicts, many Russian-Germans who escaped to this place to work in the mines, and engineers who came to work on the railroad. Many of the people including veterans, came because the provisions in the North Arctic were considerably better than the provisions in the south. And then, of course, there are the prisoners, who work in chain-gangs in Vorkuta. Nevertheless, Vorkuta is one of the best equipped cities of the north.

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Also, the food for the prisoners is better, because they work in the mines. All products from the dairy farms in this area go to Vorkuta.

99.

25X1

There was no time for such play. The only thing that the prisoners are supposed to do is work, work, work.

100.

25X1

it seems that conditions in the P.W. camps were much better than in the Russian slave labor camps.

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101.

25X1

102.

25X1

103.

The only other city of importance was Abex, where all provisions for the prisoners are warehoused. All these cities are of one-story buildings.

104.

25X1

Since 1939 no large new towns have been established. Vorkuta is the largest and newest town, and it was completed around 1930. There are innumerable Eskimo villages along the river, each consisting of approximately 30 to 40 houses with about 200 people in each town. These Eskimos live mainly by hunting and animal breeding. There are also some villages along the Pechora river, composed of people who had been exiled from Russia about 1930.

105.

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There are no bad feelings between the Eskimo villages and collective farms.

106.

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- 13 -

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107.

25X1

During the war there were usually more women on the farms because the men had gone into the army. [redacted] in Russia [redacted] women do more work, and work harder, than men, especially on the collective farms. Women take care of the cattle, sow the crops, and reap the harvest. Women do everything; they even go into the forest and cut wood.

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25X1

25X1

108.

109.

25X1

110.

[redacted] crops [redacted] raised on the collective farms [redacted]

25X1

25X1

Turnips, potatoes, wheat, and barley.

111.

112.

25X1

25X1

113.

About 60 thousand in 1941 they brought many Germans from the Volga, especially to the forest. Conditions were terrible. Others came from the occupation zone because in the winter night the work was better than in Russia. The food ration was larger and the people had more chance, especially the railroad workers. An engineer earned two or three times more money.

114.

25X1

[redacted] Lice and mosquitoes were plenty. Mosquitoes were especially bad from 15 May to 15 July.

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115.

116.

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117.

118.

The prison life was very bad. In 1941, 1942, and 1943, [redacted] got old clothes from the army. Many of the workers went out and froze their feet. Of 200 thousand prisoners, we lost 50 thousand.

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- 14 -

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119. [redacted] the best clothing to wear in the winter [redacted]

felt boots are vitally necessary.

120.

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Leather is not good. It lets the humidity through. The best trousers are made from cotton. [redacted] waterproof cotton cloth which would not let water through, like the ones [redacted] seen American soldiers wear. The Russians used cotton between linen cloth. [redacted] do not recommend socks, but linen material that you wrap around your feet and legs over which the felt boots are drawn. For more insulation [redacted] pad the boots with paper. Deerskin, full-length boots with fur on the outside are used by the Komi natives -- those aren't good for working. They are very warm and best used when traveling, but they don't wear as well.

25X1

121.

25X1

Fur caps are essential.

122.

25X1

123.

For the face, masks are not good because the skin is not adjusted to the cold and is subject to frostbite. I like good woolen scarfs best to protect the face.

124.

25X1

The Komi taught [redacted] to breathe through the nose only, and occasionally puff out [redacted] cheeks. [redacted]

125.

25X1

Long overcoats are not good; they hinder movement through the snow. Short jackets are preferable.

126.

25X1

waterproof boots.

127.

25X1

[redacted] waterproof leather. Hip-length boots are most important in the summer. Leather boots are better for marching and don't fill up with water like rubber boots do. The next important items are a mosquito mask and waterproof gloves.

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128.

129.

130.

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Enclosures: Map of Pechora-Vorkuta
Railroad, Komi
ASSH

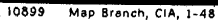
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